

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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CONTENTS.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.		Transylvania University, - - - - -	37
Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, 33		Medical School of Harvard University, Bos-	37
Medical Convention at Macon, Georgia, - 34		ton, - - - - -	37
SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF		Quackery in Ohio, - - - - -	37
MEDICAL QUACKERY.		Obituary, - - - - -	37
Hydropathy and its evils, - - - - - 34		Foreign Intelligence.—Progress of Cholera in	
MEDICAL NEWS.		France, - - - - -	37
Domestic Intelligence.—National Convention		Cholera in Paris, - - - - -	37
for Revising the Pharmacopœia of the U.		Cholera in Great Britain, - - - - -	39
States, - - - - -	35	Outbreak of Cholera at Limerick, - - - - -	39
Etherization, - - - - -	36	Deviations of the Magnet during Epidemic	
Cholera in the West, - - - - -	36	Cholera, - - - - -	39
Medical Classes—session of 1848-49, - - - 36		Treatment of Children apparently born dead, 40	
Medical Graduates, 1849, - - - - -	36	Chloroform, - - - - -	40
Medical Department of the University of		Grape Sugar constantly present in the white	
Louisville, - - - - -	36	of eggs, - - - - -	40
WEST'S LECTURES,		Use of Chloride of Zinc in taking Anatomical	
		Casts, - - - - -	40

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.—This Society held its annual meeting at Reading, on the 11th and 12th of April. Nine county societies were represented, and thirty-six delegates were present. The meeting was opened by an address from the President, Dr. Humes, of Lancaster. All former delegates to the society, who were present, and members of the profession from counties in which there are no county societies, were, on motion, invited to take seats, the former with all the rights of delegates.

A charge was made against a member of the Berks county delegation, of irregularity in practice, and a committee of five were appointed to investigate the case. This committee reported, that the delegate acknowledged having experimented with Homœopathic doses of medicine, but as he avowed himself convinced, from the result of his experiment, that the system was one of deception, and destitute of foundation, and stated that he had never consulted with or promoted the views of that class of irregular practitioners, they recommended that the dele-

gate be allowed to take his seat, which recommendation was adopted.

Art. VI. sect. I. of the constitution was amended, so as to allow the members of the profession in the city and county of Philadelphia, if they deem it expedient, to form three associations within their limits, of which the College of Physicians, now existing, shall be one, provided that, in apportioning their representation to the state society, no person belonging to two or more societies, shall be counted in more than one.

Art. VI. sect. IV. was amended, so as to change the ratio of representation to one in five.

Dr. Worthington submitted a communication from the Chester County Medical Society, urging the formation, by the state society, of a beneficiary fund. The subject, after discussion, was referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. West, Jackson, Wood, Patterson, and Atlee, to report at the next meeting of the society.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Prof. S. Jackson, of Philad.
Vice Presidents, Drs. E. D. Kittoe, of Lycoming, W. Worthington, of Chester, C.

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VOL. VII.—5

H. Mathews, of Bucks, and Geo. Halberstadt, of Schuylkill. *Corresponding Secretary*, Dr. I. Hays, of Philadelphia. *Recording Secretaries*, Drs. Henry S. Patterson, of Philadelphia, and Geo. B. Kerfoot, of Lancaster. *Treasurer*, Dr. Geo. Fox, of Philadelphia. *Censors*, 1st and 2d districts, Drs. F. A. Muhlenburg, of Lancaster, Geo. W. Norris, of Philadelphia, W. Worthington, of Chester, G. S. Carpenter, of Schuylkill, Hiram Corson, of Montgomery: 3d and 4th districts, Drs. T. Wood, — Ranking, and A. Davidson, of Lycoming, and M. Melvaine, and T. S. Haller, of York: 5th and 6th districts, Drs. J. P. Gazzam, W. Addison, G. W. Bruce, J. Brooks, R. B. Mowry, of Alleghany.

Drs. S. Humes, S. Duffield, Thos. Wood, G. S. Carpenter, and F. S. Burrowes, were appointed delegates to the American Medical Association.

Dr. Kittoe made a statement on behalf of the Lycoming County Medical Society, of the prevalence of small-pox, and the general neglect of vaccination throughout the country, together with the draft of a bill providing for a general plan of vaccination, and a petition to the legislature for the passage of the same. A resolution was adopted approving of a plan of universal vaccination throughout the state, and recommending the granting of authority, by the legislature, to the several counties, to provide the means for such vaccination within their respective limits.

Drs. C. D. Kittoe, S. Jackson, and J. P. Heister, were appointed a committee to collect information in regard to the recent prevalence of small-pox, with instructions to report at the next meeting; and county societies were requested to communicate to said committee such information as may be in their possession.

Resolutions were adopted approving of the enactment by the legislature of a law for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths; for appointing a committee to take charge of the subject, and urging the county societies, and the profession throughout the state, to use their influence to secure the passage of such a law.

The preamble and resolutions offered by Dr. Kerfoot, at the last meeting, (see No. of this Journal for May last, p. 57,) and the consideration of which was postponed to the present, were called up, discussed, and rejected.

The order of business was amended by transferring the election of officers to the 13th item.

Votes of thanks were presented to the presiding officers, and to the members of the Berks Co. Med. Soc., and the society then adjourned, to meet in Philadelphia on the third Wednesday in April, 1850.

Medical Convention at Macon, Georgia.

—The physicians of Georgia met in convention at Macon, on the 20th of March, and instituted a State Society. The following were elected officers for the present year. *President*, Dr. Lewis D. Ford; *1st Vice President*, Dr. R. D. Arnold; *2d do.*, Dr. Thos. R. Lamar; *Corresponding Sec.*, Dr. James M. Green; *Recording Sec.*, Dr. C. T. Quintard.

The following were elected delegates to the American Medical Association:—Drs. Thos. Hoxey, T. F. Green, H. S. Ogilby, E. L. Strohecker, Robt. Campbell, J. E. Dupree, and W. B. Stevens.

The next annual meeting of the Society is to be held at Macon, on the second Tuesday in April, 1850.

SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

Hydropathy and its Evils. By C. B. GARRETT, ESQ.—Five children, of a respectable family in my neighbourhood, were attacked last month with scarlatina; all progressed well till Friday, Nov. 3d, when one, a boy, through incautious exposure to wet and cold, was seized with inflammation of the meninges. I saw him shortly after its commencement, in the evening, and adopted the proper therapeutic measures. The pain and screams of the boy increased during the night, and, at the suggestion of an alarmed relative, who had been under this treatment, the hydropathic doctor was sent for early on the morning of the 4th. Wet sheets, towels, and bandages were lavishly applied; cold water lavements, cold water for food, and (*toujours perdrix!*) nothing but cold water for food, drink, or raiment.

On my arrival I met this gentleman: "Sir," said I, "how do you expect your treatment to act?" "Derivatively," replied he; "cold water promotes absorption, attracts the morbid action to the skin, and instantly relieves the brain. The wet rollers round the loins act powerfully on the kid-

neys, and the lavements clear out the bowels. Taking nothing but cold water starves out the disease. Sir," continued he, "smash all your bottles; you will adopt hydropathy in a week, and a splendid water-cure practice you will make." "I wish you could get rid of a toothache for me," said I, experiencing a twinge at that moment. "Sit with your feet wrapped in cloths of cold water for half an hour, and I will guarantee that you lose your toothache."

To proceed: my visits now ceasing to be professional, I continued them occasionally, out of curiosity. On the evening of the 4th, pain most acute; epileptic attacks frequent; pulse feeble, &c. On the 5th, pains diminished; pupils dilated; pulse slow and feeble; coma, insensibility, and great prostration of strength. The treatment went on till the morning of the 10th, when, on the visit of the learned hydropathist, he shook his head and pronounced the boy *in articulo mortis*, put on his hat, and left the house.

My attendance was again requested. I found the little patient in a positive pond of water and wet clothes, bed and all soaked. He was perfectly unconscious of all around him, moaning and crying "Ma! ma! ma!" unconscious of his mother's presence; the symptoms previously enumerated being, if possible, aggravated. The excretions were passed involuntarily, and he had not even swallowed water for twenty-eight hours; pulse almost imperceptible, and in every respect all but dead. A dry bed, dry clothes, warm milk-and-water, tonics, &c., soon revived him; a genial warmth pervaded the system, the pupils regained their natural calibre, consciousness returned, and with it a serenity and happiness of countenance, which too plainly evidenced the advantage of the change, and his lucky escape from this amphibious incarceration. On the 11th, he conversed cheerfully with those around him, took pleasure in his toys, and ate with much *goût* a mutton-chop for his dinner. He is now quite recovered.

This, sir, is a part of the tale only, for the other four children were all hydropathed. Two had congestion of the brain, and the other two anasarca. The two former recovered, but one of the latter (urine becoming albuminous, bilious vomiting and purging) speedily died. The above circumstances I have related to you with the most perfect

sense of candour and impartiality, entertaining as I do a deep respect for the opinions of others, however erroneous; and I must say, that my hydropathic friend acted throughout with much courtesy and unobtrusiveness, and appeared to attend the case reluctantly, and as though pressed against his inclination.—*Lancet*, Jan. 20, 1849.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

National Convention for Revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States.—The convention for revising the Pharmacopœia, which met in Washington, in January, 1840, adopted the following resolutions:

"1. The president of this convention shall, on the first day of May, 1849, issue a notice, requesting the several *incorporated State Medical Societies*, the *incorporated Medical Colleges*, the *incorporated Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons*, and the *incorporated Colleges of Pharmacy*, throughout the United States, to elect a number of delegates, not exceeding three, to attend a general convention to be held at Washington, on the first Monday in May, 1850.

"2. The several incorporated bodies thus addressed, shall also be requested by the president to submit the Pharmacopœia to a careful revision, and to transmit the result of their labours, through their delegates, or through any other channel, to the next convention.

"3. The several medical and pharmaceutical bodies shall be further requested to transmit to the president of the convention the names and residences of their respective delegates, as soon as they shall have been appointed, a list of whom shall be published, under his authority, for the information of the medical public, in the newspapers and medical journals, in the month of March, 1850.

"4. In the event of the death, resignation, or inability to act, of the president of the convention, these duties shall devolve on the vice president; and should the vice president also be prevented from serving, upon the secretary, or the assistant secretary, the latter acting in the event of the inability of the former."

In compliance with the foregoing resolu-

tions, the undersigned, having been informed by the president of the late convention, Dr. Lewis Condict, that he would be unable, from indisposition, to perform the duty assigned to him, gives notice to the several medical and pharmaceutical bodies enumerated in the first resolution, that the convention for revising the national Pharmacopœia, will meet in the city of Washington, on the first Monday in May, 1850. The undersigned also requests of the several bodies referred to, that they will fulfil the wishes of the convention as set forth in the second resolution; and, further, that they will transmit to his address, on or before the first day of March next, the names and residences of the delegates whom they may appoint, in order that a list of them may be published, as directed in the third resolution.

GEO. B. WOOD, M. D.,

Vice President of the Convention of 1840.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1849.

Etherization.—We observe with regret, in a review of Dr. Channing's work on Etherization in childbirth, in the New York Journal of Medicine (March 1849), the following sneering remarks relative to the surgeons and accoucheurs of Philadelphia.

"We have said everywhere," (remarks the reviewer, in speaking of the admiration and surprise with which the discovery of etherization was hailed,) "but there is an exception to this statement, and one so very curious that it deserves to be noted if only as a *psychological phenomenon*; we believe few trials have been made of the new practice in Philadelphia; the surgeons generally and obstetricians universally of that great metropolis, having resolved not to try the new practice, to 'have neither part nor lot in the matter.' Is this very remarkable unanimity a credit to the docility, or an imputation on the independence, of professional mind?"

Independently of this statement not being strictly accurate, it unfortunately, for the reviewer, appears with a bad grace immediately succeeding an article devoted to an account of a man who fell a victim to the inhalation of chloroform in the New York hospital, the article having been given to save the patient the pain of an operation for hemorrhoids. We forbear the retort to which the reviewer has laid himself open.

Cholera in the West.—All the steam-boats ascending the Mississippi and its tribu-

taries are infested with cholera. The disease continues to prevail at New Orleans, and at most of the large towns on the river as high as St. Louis, though to a limited extent. The disease does not seem to have spread to any extent back from the river, and such cases as have occurred are said to be of a milder type.

Medical Classes, Session of 1848-49.—

The number of the class in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, was 499; Harvard University, Boston, 126; College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 176; Albany Medical College, 101; Philadelphia College of Medicine, 91; Jefferson Medical College, 477; University of Maryland, 190; Medical College of Georgia, (Augusta,) 133; Medical Department Transylvania College, (Lexington,) 120; Medical Department of University of Louisville, 331; Medical College of Ohio, (Cincinnati,) 175; Rush Medical College, (Chicago,) 100; Medical Department University, Missouri, (St. Louis,) 154; Starling Medical College, (O.) 173.

Medical Graduates, 1849.—The number of graduates in Med. Department of University of Pennsylvania, was 190: College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 39; Medical Department University of city of New York, 134; Jefferson Medical College, 188; Medical Department Pennsylvania College, 36; Philadelphia College of Medicine, 21; University of Maryland, 64; Medical College of Georgia, (Augusta,) 36; Medical Department Transylvania College, (Lexington,) 46; Medical Department University of Louisville, 81; Medical College of Ohio, (Cincinnati,) 50; Rush Medical College, (Chicago,) 18; Medical Department University of Missouri, (St. Louis,) 38; Starling Medical College (Columbus, O.) 50.

Medical Department of the University of Louisville.—Dr. D. Drake, who has been so long identified with medical teaching in the West, has resigned his Professorship of Medical Pathology and Practice of Medicine, and Dr. L. P. Yandell, the able Professor of Chemistry in the same school, has been transferred to his chair.

Dr. Drake returns to Cincinnati, to make that city his permanent residence.

B. Silliman, Jr., has been appointed to the chemical chair.

Transylvania University.—Dr. E. Bartlett has resigned the chair of Institutes and Practice of Medicine, which he has for several years filled, in this school, with signal ability.

Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell has resigned the Professorship of Materia Medica, and Dr. Henry M. Bullitt, of Cincinnati, has been appointed in his place.

Medical School of Harvard University, Boston.—Dr. Geo. Hayward has resigned the Professorship of Surgery, which he has filled for a number of years with great credit to himself and advantage to the pupils of the school. The corporation of the college and the members of the faculty have testified to Dr. Hayward, their regret at his resignation, and their sense of the eminent services he has rendered the university.

Quackery in Ohio.—In the early part of the present session of the Legislature, a project was set on foot by the combined forces of quackery in Cincinnati, to introduce themselves, under the sanction of law, into the Commercial Hospital of that city, on equal terms with the Faculty of the Ohio Medical College, who have hitherto held the medical control of said institution. No efforts have been left untried which the most unblushing impudence and reckless disregard for truth could suggest, and, notwithstanding the generally intelligent character of the Legislature, these, for a time, were nearly successful, so far as the passage of the bill was concerned. Thanks to the intelligence of the Senate, and the disgusting overdoing of the quacks, the measure received its quietus in that body, and we are assured by several influential members of the House, that the bill could not now receive a majority of votes there.—*Ohio Med. and Surg. Journ.*, March, 1849.

Obituary.—Died in New Orleans, on the 19th of March, 1849, Dr. JOHN HARRISON, Professor of Physiology in the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Progress of Cholera in France.—*L'Union*

Médicale, of the 17th of March, contains a very interesting glance at the progress of cholera in France. From this paper it appears that the invasion took place as far back as the 20th of October, 1848. Entering by Dunkirk, the disease spread through the four departments of the North, Pas-de-Calais, Lower Seine, and Seine, with great geographical irregularity. On the 1st of March, 1849, these four departments presented 1692 cases and 803 deaths. In 1832, there occurred in the department of the North alone, from the 14th of April to the 1st of December, 12,557 cases, and 6040 deaths; whereas, we have this year, in the same department, for three months, only 378 cases, and 222 deaths. Want and filth, as well as marshy districts, have had their usual influence. The symptoms are much less violent than in 1832, and the typhoid character predominates. Very few cases were ushered in suddenly, and the premonitory diarrhœa has been universally noticed. It appears that neither chloroform, nor Indian hemp, nor the terchloride of carbon, has been at all tried in the provinces. It is satisfactory to add, that the duration of the epidemic bids fair to be very short; it has almost disappeared from the three departments where it broke out.

Cholera in Paris, March 16, 1849.—The two first cases of cholera occurred in Paris on the 9th. From that day to this, sixteen new cases have been recorded, which gives a total of eighteen cases; out of these, twelve have proved fatal. It should be noticed that the persons who have fallen victims to the disease, were either labouring under chronic affections of long standing, or confirmed drunkards, or living in the most wretched state of filth and want. The difference between the epidemic of 1849 and that of 1832, is striking. In the space of seven days there were recorded in the latter year, in Paris, several thousand deaths, and most of the cases were fatal, hardly a few of those who were attacked escaping the terrible fate of the rest; whereas, in the same lapse of time, there are now but eighteen cases and twelve deaths. Several post-mortem examinations have been made, but nothing particular has been elicited. General redness of the intestinal mucous membrane, hypertrophy of the solitary and Brunner's follicles, as well as of Peyer's glands, and a congested state of the principal organs,

are the pathological alterations which have been met with.

March 26.—The weather has been rough and changeable for the last few days, and the epidemic has received a sort of impetus from this circumstance. Up to the 26th, there have been recorded, in the different hospitals, 100 cases brought in; already attacked, 203 cases; among the patients of the various establishments admitted for other diseases; total, 385, from which 180 died. The greatest mortality, as well as the greatest number of cases, are occurring at the Salpêtrière (asylum for old persons of the female sex, and for the insane); there have been no less than 129 cases and 67 deaths. The smallest mortality is at the military hospital of Val de Grâce, there having been nineteen cases and only three deaths. The Director-General of the civil hospitals of Paris has just convened a committee, composed of one medical officer of each hospital, elected by their respective colleagues, to consult on the present emergency. It has been resolved, that cholera patients will be admitted into the hospitals of Paris, and that no special cholera hospital shall be established. All the sick and convalescent who can be removed shall make room for the patients struck with the epidemic, and accommodation for the former shall be made at Bicêtre and St. Denis. Fish, flesh, and fowl to be plentifully supplied to hospitals, the pupils and servants of these establishments to forego fasting for the rest of Lent, and sulphite of soda to be used in those places where deleterious gases are rising.—The cholera, on the seventeenth day of its reign in Paris, had carried off, this year, 161 persons. On the seventeenth day after the disease broke out in 1832, it had been fatal to 7000 individuals.—Two sisters of charity, in attendance upon cholera patients at the Charité, have been seized with the disease, and are in a very precarious state.

March 30th.—*L'Union Médicale* continues to give the number of cases of cholera and of deaths in the different hospitals of Paris, but as to the cases and mortality which take place in private life, not a word is said: this is certainly a very great deficiency. Up to the 30th March, 623 cases and 317 deaths have occurred in hospitals, the Salpêtrière bearing an enormous proportion—viz. 209 cases and 126 deaths. It is, however, to be noticed, that this establish-

ment, being a refuge for indigent females of an advanced age, and for the insane of the same sex, the epidemic must necessarily assume great severity. Nor should it be forgotten that the number of inmates amounts to upwards of 5000. The mortality being more than one-half of the cases, does not speak in favour of the success which our Paris brethren meet with in their treatment. The same uncertainty reigns now as in 1832, although a great number of new remedies have since been proposed and tried. We perceive that chloroform inhalations have been used by M. Richet at the Hôpital des Cliniques, but with no satisfactory results. Applications on the abdomen by the same agent have been made by M. Vernois at the Hôpital St. Antoine, but the patient died, nevertheless. M. Paul Dubois had several cases at the Lying-in Hospital; one pregnant woman died without labour having been brought on. At the Hôpital des Enfants, M. Bouneau gave warm baths and frictions, with an ammoniacal ointment; he lost only one patient out of five: Indian hemp has been tried; it has done some good in a few cases, in others it was found entirely wanting. The plant recently brought from Mount Olympus, the "*Stachys anatolica vel aromatica*," has failed in most instances. Chloroform internally given with laudanum, has done some good in the hands of M. Vernois. Common salt has been used in M. Fouquier's wards only; it was there combined with laudanum; two cases were benefited by this treatment. We regret to add that Professor Fouquier, whom we just mentioned, has suffered from an attack of cholera; on the 31st of March, there was some improvement in the symptoms. M. Devergie, at the Hôpital St. Louis, has used the hot-air apparatus, consisting of a spirit lamp, the heat of which is carried under the bedclothes by a tube (a contrivance well known in this country), and adding to this stimulants and astringent enemata, has obtained tolerable results; fourteen cases and six deaths. The disease is reigning in several departments north of Paris, and we find that the sum total, from the 25th of September to the 27th of March, has been for the whole country, including the capital, 3063 cases and 1445 deaths. In 1832, within the same period, not seven departments only, as is the case now, were invaded, but forty-one of them; and in four months there were no less than 120,000 at-

tacks and 60,000 deaths. Thus we may well repeat with *l'Union Médicale*, that the epidemic is, in some degree, worn out.

Cholera in Great Britain.—The cases and deaths up to the 21st of March, are as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
London,	1,205	617
Provinces,	1,077	476
Scotland,	12,640	5,219
	<hr/> 14,322	<hr/> 6,312

March 28th. — During the past week, there were only ten fatal cases of cholera in the metropolis and its environs. The daily official reports of cases and deaths are no longer given, as the disease seems to have declined and public apprehension has subsided. As in 1832, however, another outbreak may occur in the summer.

Outbreak of Cholera at Limerick.—Limerick suffered severely from a sudden outbreak of cholera in March last. Dr. Kidd states, (*Med. Times*, Ap. 7,) that out of a population of 60,000, almost every one has been suffering more or less, under the malign influence of the poison, and over a thousand have already been swept away by it. All the cases for the first few days, came from one locality, the resort of drunken sailors, abandoned women, and people of that class; and some of the most marked and fatal cases happened in crammed up lodging houses during the Assizes, which were holding at the time.

Deviations of the Magnet during Epidemic Cholera.—A correspondent at St. Petersburg writes as follows to the Editor of the *Abeille Médicale*:—"During the height of the cholera, the magnetic power was completely neutralized, while it gradually recovered its intensity as the disease subsided. Thus, a magnet of eighty pounds power, during the period of cholera, could only suspend a weight of thirteen pounds, while the operation of the electro-magnetic telegraph, when the epidemic was at its height, was completely suspended."

At a late *séance* of the Academy of Science of Paris, the same fact was stated by M. Arago, who read a letter from St. Petersburg, in which it was stated that, during the time the cholera prevailed in its greatest intensity, the magnetic needle had

been in a state of constant vacillation—except during a violent storm, when the anomaly had entirely disappeared. In the *Presse Médicale*, Dr. Hannon relates, that he had determined to observe the force of his magnets during the invasion in Belgium by cholera; and as no similar observations had been made in any of the localities attacked by the disease in 1832, it became a matter of great interest to determine whether the disease of 1848 presented, in this respect, any peculiarity worthy of notice, particularly as it is known that there is some analogy of directions between the course of the cholera and the great magnetic lines of the globe.

The cholera, however, appeared in Holland without any disturbance of the power of Dr. Hannon's needles; it visited Mons, Bruges, Liège, and Antwerp, in Belgium, but still the magnetic intensity was not affected. Finally, it arrived at the very gates of Brussels, and the same weight was, nevertheless, supported by the magnets. How can we explain this? There is no decrease in magnetic force. Must we, then, suppose that Monsieur Demidoff had palmed an error on the Academy of Sciences? This latter proposition is inadmissible; and we suspect that the phenomena observed at St. Petersburg, were occasioned by certain electric conditions very common in northern regions. The aurora borealis is never noticed without aberrations of the magnetic apparatus being observed. Might it not, then, have been, that certain meteorological states of the atmosphere had temporarily weakened the magnets at St. Petersburg, without our being under the necessity of referring this incident to the effects of cholera? The subject is one of great moment, and highly worthy of the attention of the Profession; for, should the magnetic force really suffer any diminution from the same cause that excites the cholera, the following important remark suggests itself:—The flow of the nervous current is diminished towards the surface of the body in cholera, and the circulation ceases in the capillary vessels, from the paralyzed state of the ganglionic nerves; hence cold results, as there is no chemical action where there is no circulation of blood. The nervous and magnetic forces would therefore appear to display a considerable analogy, as they suffer the same modification from the same cause.

We shall carefully watch Dr. Hannon's further remarks on this subject; and we

beg our readers in the cholera districts to give the subject their earnest attention. A common horse-shoe magnet is sufficient to test the truth of Monsieur Demidoff's observation.—*Med. Times.*

Treatment of Children apparently born dead.—Dr. THUES, in the *Oestereichische Medicinische Wochenschrift*, recommends, in cases of children apparently born dead, alternate immersions in cold and hot water; and MM. Wieland, Schneider, and Scholler, assure us they have succeeded in restoring animation by these means, when all others have failed.—*Med. Times.*

Chloroform.—Monsieur MOREAU, at the Bicêtre, has applied chloroform externally, with great success, in wandering rheumatic pains; Monsieur Legroux, of Beaujon, in the same way, in painful cancerous affections, which, he says, have thus been greatly relieved; and Dr. Aubrun, of Paris, in the most painful angina pectoris. In brow ague it is a very valuable application.—*Med. Times.*

Grape Sugar constantly present in the white of eggs.—Dr. ALDRIDGE has discovered that sugar, identical with the sugar of grapes, of honey and of diabetes, is an essential constituent of the egg of the common domestic fowl.

Use of Chloride of Zinc in taking Anatomical Casts.—M. GOURLIER has recently communicated to the Academy of Sciences of Paris a discovery made by M. Stahl, which bids fair to be of much service to those employed in taking casts of objects, in which process it not unfrequently happens that much difficulty arises from the adhesion of the plaster of Paris to the surface of the objects to be copied or to the moulds of deep intaglio; thus interfering with the correctness and fineness of the impressions. These inconveniences are most frequently met with in obtaining casts in the following cases:—1. of soft fresh anatomical preparations, in which case they are covered with a layer of oil; 2. of specimens which have been preserved in spirits of wine; 3. of wax objects; and 4. of deep intaglios, especially when somewhat old, or not recently used.

Having the charge of the castings for the Museum of Natural History, at Paris, M.

Stahl has paid considerable attention to this subject, and has long sought the cause of this adhesion and the means of preventing it.

In the course of his researches, he was led to remark, that this inconvenience never arose in taking casts of those objects which had been preserved in chloride of zinc instead of spirits of wine; and on applying that solution to those cases in which the inconvenience above mentioned was met with, the most complete success attended the application. Having next made several experiments with a view to ascertain the strength of the solution best adapted for the purpose, he gives the following directions for the guidance of those who make use of the process:—

If casts be required of soft or small anatomical specimens, whether fresh or previously kept in spirits of wine, these should be immersed for a few hours in a solution of chloride of zinc, of the density 20° to 25° Beaumé (equal to specific gravity 1.161 to 1.210), after which the casts may be taken without any other preparation being required.

If, on the contrary, the specimens are too large to be conveniently immersed, it will be found sufficient to apply the solution to the specimen, either to the whole at once, or to each portion of it in succession, in such a manner that the solution may be thoroughly imbibed. This last process is equally applicable to wax figures, whatever their dimensions. If moulds of deep intaglio be employed, these having been previously soaped, should be moistened with the chloride of zinc, of the density of 50° Beaumé (equal to specific gravity of 1.530), after which a coating of oil may be applied as usual.

M. Stahl has succeeded, by the use of the chloride of zinc, in taking a cast of a beautiful model figure, the work of the late M. Giraud, a distinguished sculptor, and now in the possession of M. Vatinelle, who, after the refusal of several casters, had despaired of ever obtaining a cast, either in plaster or bronze, of this most esteemed production.

M. Stahl has taken casts of most delicate specimens of natural history, as well as of intaglios of various kinds, obtaining the most complete and faithful reproduction of the minute details, such as the scales of fishes, &c.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, March.